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# University of Montana

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## MEDIA RELEASE

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### UM BIOLOGICAL STATION RECEIVES \$30,000 GIFT

MISSOULA--

The University of Montana Biological Station located at Yellow Bay on Flathead Lake has received a \$30,000 endowment, UM President Neil S. Bucklew announced today.

The money was donated by Dr. Jessie Bierman, a retired physician and long-time supporter of the station, of Carmel, Calif.

"Dr. Bierman was a student at Yellow Bay 60 years ago," Richard A. Solberg, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, said. "She has been probably the most ardent supporter of the station outside the University. She visits regularly, confers with faculty and administrators, meets with students, and takes a very active interest in the research that's being done.

"Contributions like hers are allowing the biological station to become the first and foremost such facility in the United States."

Dr. Bierman has made a number of other contributions to the station in the past. In 1974 she donated funds to help build year-round housing quarters and she also gave \$10,000 for an engine for the station's 26-foot research boat.

The new endowment fund will be administered by the University of Montana Foundation and will be used to help support graduate and post-doctoral students, known as Bierman Scholars. Income from the fund also will be used to help purchase supplies for student research projects, finance visits to the biological station by internationally known scientists for seminars and joint research

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UM BIOLOGICAL STATION-- add one

projects, and finance the publication of research and public-interest papers.

Dr. Bierman was graduated from the University of Montana in 1921 with a B.A. in biology. "I took the last few credits I needed to graduate at the biological station," she said. Her major professor was Dr. Morton J. Elrod, who founded the station at Bigfork in 1899. The station was moved to its present site in 1909 after the University received a federal grant of 160 acres at Yellow Bay.

Dr. Bierman called Flathead one of the last "clean" lakes in the country. "The work that is being done there is crucial to determining the future of the lake and the Flathead drainage," she said.

Jack Stanford, director of the biological station, said the Bierman endowment will "provide a way to keep people working here on research projects independent of federal grants."

The facility is one of the oldest fully active inland biological stations in the US and has a staff of 12 full-time employees who conduct year-round aquatic research.

Stanford said research is being conducted on how lakes respond to sewage pollution and other sources of nutrients that cause excessive plant growth and on how land-use disturbances, such as high dams, logging practices, and volcanic ashfall, affect aquatic insects and other aspects of water quality. In addition to studying Flathead Lake and the Flathead River, Stanford said researchers at the station are working on the Gunnison River in Colorado and several rivers in Norway.

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